Disinvestment in IPCL

401. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to disinvest Government equity in IPCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision is in violation of the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission with respect to this company; and

(d) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has, on the basis of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, taken a decision to divest 25% equity along with transfer of management control in favour of a strategic buyer through the process of Global Competitive Bids. The final decision of the Government will be taken only after the ongoing process of disinvestment is completed. The Public Sector Disinvestment Commission is an advisory body and final decision on the recommendations of the Commission vests with the Government.

The Commission had, 'inter alia', recommended that, while prequalifying bidders, care should be taken to ensure that strategic sale does not lead to market dominance by any single player. At the time of consideration of the recommendations of the Commission, the only modification made was that it was not considered necessary to look into the dominance angle at that stage since petrochemical products are freely tradable.

Closure of FP & ARD of HFC

402. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP&ARD) under the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC);

(b) if so, whether this has been part of any revival scheme formulated by BIFR where HFC stands referred; and

(c) if not, the reasons for such unilateral decision by Government?